

N A T U R A L

R E S O U R C E S



DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT
STATEMENT

on the

POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTS

April 2005



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands



April 2005

Dear Interested Parties:

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources is in the process of updating the 1992 *Forest Resource Plan*. The department began this process last spring with scoping the need, purpose, policy objectives and significant environmental issues that should be considered when updating the plan. A significant amount of oral and written comments were received. As a result of this scoping effort, the department is pleased to submit the attached *Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Policy for Sustainable Forests*.

Within this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), 26 policy subject areas are analyzed and organized by four major policy categories: Economic Performance; Forest Ecosystem Health and Productivity; Social and Cultural Benefits; and Implementation. Key policy issues and decisions facing the Board of Natural Resources include: Old Growth; Public Access and Recreation; Forest Health; Wildlife Habitat; and Forest Land Planning.

This Draft EIS will provide environmental analysis to assist the Board of Natural Resources in their decision-making process and ultimate adoption of the *Policy for Sustainable Forests*. The policies contained in this document will guide long-term sustainable management of 2.1 million acres of forested state trust lands. As a result, the people of Washington can expect the continual flow of economic, ecological and social benefits well into the future, including revenue to support our public institutions, creation of wildlife habitat, clean air and water, as well as outdoor recreation.

Thank you for your interest in this *Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Policy for Sustainable Forests*. A 30-day comment period begins with the publication of this document and the department invites you to attend and participate in the public hearings that are scheduled across the state the first two weeks of May. In addition, comments can also be made in writing through May 16, 2005. Your input is critical to this process and we look forward to receiving your thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Sutherland".

Doug Sutherland
Commissioner of Public Lands

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Fact Sheet

TITLE

Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Policy for Sustainable Forests

DESCRIPTION

The proposal is the adoption of new policies to update the 1992 *Forest Resource Plan* for forested state trust lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

PROPONENT AND LEAD AGENCY

Department of Natural Resources

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

September 2005

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DATE OF ISSUANCE OF DRAFT EIS

April 15, 2005

COMMENT PERIOD

The comment period for this Draft EIS is
April 15, 2005 through May 16, 2005.
Comments are due to the SEPA Center no later
than 5:00 PM on Monday, May 16, 2005:

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE
CONDUCTED**

May 3, 2005 – Lacey, Lacey Community
Center at Woodland Creek Community
Park
May 4, 2005 – Port Angeles, Peninsula
College
May 5, 2005 – Mount Vernon, Best Western
Cotton Tree Inn and Convention Center
May 9, 2005 – Longview, Cowlitz County
PUD
May 10, 2005 – Bellevue, Bellevue
Community College
May 11, 2005 – Ellensburg, Central
Washington University
May 12, 2005 – Spokane, Hilton Garden Inn

**LOCATION OF REFERENCED
MATERIALS**

See contact information.

**ANTICIPATED ISSUANCE OF FINAL
EIS**

August 2005

**ANTICIPATED BOARD OF NATURAL
RESOURCES ADOPTION OF THE
POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTS**

September 2005

COST/AVAILABILITY

Copies of this Draft EIS are available at
www.dnr.wa.gov/. A limited number of print
copies and computer CDs will also be
available at no charge. After these are
distributed, additional copies will be available
for the cost of printing or CD production, per
chapter 42.17 RCW. Requests can be sent to
the contact address.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Notice of the availability of this Draft EIS is
on the department's website at
www.dnr.wa.gov. Copies will be sent to the
Board of Natural Resources; all local
government planning departments (city and
county); affected Tribes; all state and federal
agencies with jurisdiction over selected
environmental organizations; academia;
Washington newspapers; libraries; and all
other interested parties.



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